

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**
SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

CD NO. 50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 26 Oct. 1951

SUBJECT Border Guard Units in the Devin
Area

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW) 50X1-HUM

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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2. The battalion is composed of approximately 500 troops, 400 of whom belong to the various organic companies, and 100 to a special company attached to the battalion known as "Buk". The troops live in a barracks located at the eastern edge of the city.

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3. The soldiers undergoing basic training within the battalion are furnished with German Mauser rifles, M-34 German light machine guns, and Soviet Shpagin sub-machine guns. For transportation the battalion has four trucks, two (2) Jeeps, eight (8) horses, (3) horsecarts, and two (2) oxen.

4. The battalion has its own organic armory, food services, and clothing warehouse. (See attached sketch for details.)

5. The following are the Command personnel of the battalion:

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09/3/92
[Major] GOTSEV, (fnu), battalion commander

[Capt.] SHIVACHEV, (fnu), deputy commander, Political Section

[Capt.] MARKOV, (fnu), commander of the training battalion

[Capt.] TERZIEV, (fnu), deputy commander, Political Section of the training battalion.

[Capt.] GHEGOROV, (fnu), chief of staff

[Lieut.] VANCHEV, (fnu),

[Lieut.] KANCHEV, (fnu),

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(Lieut.) BOZHIKOV, [REDACTED]

(Lieut.) PISNTELOV, [REDACTED]

(Lieut.) BARKOV, [REDACTED]

(Lieut.) KOMITSKI, [REDACTED]

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(M/Sgt.) Delcho Dobrev SERDAROV, [REDACTED]

(Senior Sergeant) APOSTOLOV, (fmu), [REDACTED]

(Sgt.) MITEV, (fmu), [REDACTED]

(Senior Sgt.) TODOROV, (fmu), [REDACTED]

6. Each year, after the new troops have completed their individual basic training in the battalion barracks in Devin, they are then dispersed throughout the various subordinate units. Officers and NCO's of the battalion are likewise dispersed throughout the various units, but they stay there only during the summer season. During the winter these officers and NCO's come back in to Devin in order to take over the training of new classes. In the event new officers are needed they are brought from the military school in Turnovo.

7. The training battalion in Devin prepares border guards for the "uchastuk" in Slashten (QK 8433) and the border "zastava" "Krusha", "Yabulka", and "Iskur".

8. The special company of the battalion is composed of a machine gun section, a mortar section, and an engineer section. This company is always at battalion headquarters, unless needed at one of the other subordinate units. As an example, [REDACTED] the company held its position at the "uchastuk" headquarters in Slashten and then returned to its mother unit in Devin. 50X1-HUM

9. The supplying of the battalion in Devin is effected by truck from the railway station of Krichim (RF 2491). Supplying of the "uchastuk" in Slashten is effected by truck from the village of Doepat (QK 9748). Up until May, 1951 the "uchastuk" had to haul its food from the "uchastuk's" storehouse in the village of Svatocha, and the food was then brought in by horsecart. All the "zastavas" belonging to the "uchastuk" are supplied directly from the "uchastuk" either by mule or donkey, with the exception of the Krusha "zastava", which is supplied by road.

10. During March, 1951 the troops of the Border Guard battalion in Devin received the new Border Guard winter uniform, which is made of brown cloth, ski-type pants without stripe, winter hat, and jacket. This uniform had green collar tabs and shoulder straps. During the second-half of May, 1951 the soldiers received summer uniforms made of green material, with ski-type pants without stripe, open jacket, and a cap with red piping. The summer uniforms likewise had green

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collar tabs and shoulder straps. During June, 1951 the troops of the battalion received a new-type summer uniform which had just been brought into the army and consisted of Russian-type clothing of a greenish material. The Russian jacket is used with ski-type pants without stripes and cap. The Russian jacket consists of a high, stiff collar and straight front. This uniform likewise had green tabs on the collar and green shoulder straps.

11. The Communist regime has been attempting to force all units within the army to have their troops serve out their military service without home leave of any kind. Up to now this has been impossible as a certain amount of leave has been given to all the units. The explanation for giving a new recruit no leave until he finishes his military service is to protect military secrets and to maintain the troops under a strictly military regime. Until now the battalion in Devin had always received two (2), or at least one (1) home leave per year. Besides this, extenuating circumstances, such as death or serious illness in the immediate family was cause to give, two (2), four (4), or six (6)-day emergency leaves, depending upon the distance of the soldier's home from the battalion. Up until the end of June, 1951 the battalion in Devin, which is composed of three (3) classes: 28th, 29th, and 30th classes--had given the first two classes each one 15-day home leave. The third, or 30th class, has yet to receive home leave.

12. Soldiers can write as many letters as they desire to any person residing within the country. The soldier uses as his address his first and last names, name and number of the battalion, (otryad), number or name of the company, if he is in a company, and the name of the city where the unit is located. The address of the soldier also contains the name of the "sastava" or "uchastuk", if he is permanently assigned to these units.

13. The troops of the Border Battalion and its subordinate units are constantly being lectured on the theme of security by their commanders. They are cautioned to withhold all military information and secrets from all their friends and relatives, be it verbal or by letter, as well as the exact place where they are serving and what they are doing. In order to further safeguard security, soldiers are allowed to go only to the immediate village adjacent to their post and they may not go alone but must go in company of at least one other person. This latter is done not only for security but in order to have a control on the troops going into the town and to check on what civilians they are meeting. Each soldier is requested by order to report to his commanding officers any new friends or acquaintances he meets within the village. Outside of the known Communists within these villages, the villagers themselves show their antipathy of the Border Guards, as they, the villagers, consider the Border Guards dyed-in-wool Communists.

14. Political indoctrination within the battalion is accomplished by the DSHM and the secretary of the organization conducts soldiers' meetings at which the newspaper "Rabotnichesko Delo" is read and criticized by the soldiers. All criticism is, of course, Communist constructive criticism, which would indicate where an individual or an organization is falling down in following the Communist Party line. Also at these meetings various statements and publications are read

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which are printed and furnished to the "uchastuks" for distribution to the troops. The secretary of the DSNM is usually a candidate NCO or a private, but must be a CP member. Recent discussions or forums conducted for the soldiers had as their main theme the conference of the deputy ministers in Paris and the sabotage of this conference conducted by England and America. Anglo-American imperialists are preparing for war, Greek monarcho-fascists and Anglo-American imperialists are continuously sending diversionary groups for sabotage to the People's Republic of Bulgaria, laborers and their families live in complete and object misery in the Western countries. When proclamations or bulletins emanating from the army are read before the troops it is usually the deputy commander of the Political Section who reads these papers. In the event the unit has no deputy commander of Political Section the secretary of the DSNM fulfills this function. Very few of the officers and NCO's are CP members, as the majority of the officers and NCO's are too young and, therefore, belong to the DSNM. Although not CP members these officers and NCO's, as do those of other units throughout the army, support the CP program in its entirety.

15. Choosing of new recruits for the Border Guard units is accomplished through the Central Committee of the DSNM in Sofia, where each year they are levied by the Ministry of National Defense--Department of Border Guards, to furnish a certain number of youths who are eligible for military service. The number is previously arrived at by reports from the various unit commanders who indicate how many vacancies they will have due to separation of older class members.

16. The DSNM in turn takes and divides the number and apportions it to the various departments, who in turn likewise subdivide their quota to the districts. The departmental committees of the DSNM are the ones who stipulate which men within the various districts are to be assigned to the Border Guards and which ones will go on to the regular army units. In effect it is the village committees of the DSNM who have the say on who will be Border Guards and who will not, since after receiving the names and the number of their quota they must then conduct an investigation and report back to the district and on to the department the political reliability of these individuals and their recommendations. It must not be assumed that all Border Guards are, therefore, Communists since they have been chosen in this manner, but due to the large quotas imposed on the various organizations they are sometimes unable to fill the quota from strictly Party members' families or those youths with an extreme Left orientation. They are, therefore, called upon to recruit from amongst their friends and relatives for the Border Guards, since this is supposed to be a choicer assignment.

17. In the Devin battalion there are not more than 30% Communists of the total number of soldiers. The soldiers in this battalion are required to have at least third-grade education, but not more than fifth-grade education.

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18. The Slavtchen "uchastuk" comes under the Devin battalion.
 The "uchastuk" is located in the middle of the village adjacent to the municipality, the school, and the mosque. This unit has no barracks,

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as such, and are using an old house as sleeping quarters and a room of the mosque as their mess hall and kitchen. The staff of the "uchastuk" is located in the municipality. The armory, which was formerly housed in the aid station, has been moved to an unknown location.

19. There are approximately 50 soldiers in the "uchastuk" and they are armed with Soviet sub-machine guns and rifles, Soviet heavy machine guns, and German light machine guns. The "uchastuk" furnishes day and night patrols for the area. The "uchastuk", now called "komandatura", has one (1) "naryad" (two-man patrol) who patrol the village streets during the day and two (2) patrols at nighttime. The day patrol is armed with one (1) rifle, one machine gun, and two (2) hand grenades. They also conduct observation of the Greco-Bulgarian border at a place along the Mesta River, opposite the Greek village of Rakishte. The day patrol goes on duty without password at 0500 hours and is again relieved at 2000 hours. The night patrol carries the same armament as the day patrols. The first night patrol maintains a post at the ford of the Mesta River about 100 meters north of the Greco-Bulgarian border. The second night patrol has its post at a place called "Frite Puteki" which is located half way between the ford and the "uchastuk" headquarters. The night patrols assume their duties at 2000 hours and are given the password for the night. Between 0100 and 0200 hours this patrol is changed by a relief patrol, which in turn is relieved at 0800 hours. Besides the password these patrols generally use an additional recognition sign, such as a call, whistle, or knocking on the rifle base plate.

20. All soldiers of the "uchastuk" not engaged in patrolling have daily training and combat courses. They also do a certain amount of firing with rifles and sub-machine guns and all troops must have at least one (1) hour daily of political indoctrination.

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21. The command personnel of the "uchastuk" are as follows:

"Uchastuk" Commander - name unknown, [redacted]

(Lieut.) KRISTOV, (fnu), deputy commander, Political Section, [redacted]

(Lieut.) BOZHILOV, (fnu), chief of staff, arrived from the Devin battalion during April, 1961. [redacted]

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Besides the above officers there are two (2) other officers and ten (10) NCO's within the "uchastuk" whose names are not known.

22. Besides the personal arms of the soldiers the "uchastuk" has at its disposal an armory containing additional rifles, sub-machine guns, machine guns, and hand grenades. They have one (1) heavy Soviet Maksim Sokolov machine gun for use from a prepared emplacement. All the soldiers of the "uchastuk" are divided into sections of eleven (11) men each, and in the event of an alert,

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they take their predesignated places. These places are usually behind a tree, a wall, a stone, or similar protection, and the soldiers form a half circle in front of the "uchastuk".

23. There are plans to construct new barracks for the troops on the site of the old mosque and the vacant lot between the mosque and the telephone exchange.

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24. The border "zastava" "Krusha" is located about 150 to 200 meters south of the village of Godeshevo((Q) K 8730).

The unit occupies barracks contained in one building with dimensions 20 meters long, 5 meters wide, and 5 meters high. Outside of this building the "uchastuk" has a stable and an armory and supply warehouse.

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25. The total number of soldiers at this "uchastuk" were 34 and all were armed with Soviet rifles, sub-machine guns, and machine guns. The "zastava" has four (4) German machine guns in reserve which can be used as light, heavy or anti-aircraft machine guns. They also have three (3) light Soviet machine guns type "Dikteryava". In the armory, besides these weapons, there are 14 rifles of Bulgarian, German, and Russian manufacture.

26. Command personnel of this "uchastuk" are:

(Lieut.) STEFANOV. (fnu) "zastava" commander,

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(Lieut.) VICHEV. (fnu) deputy commander, Political Section,

(Sgt.) CHOLEV. (fnu).

27. The "zastava" maintains day and night patrols. The day patrol consists of three (3) observers who are not interchangeable. These observers assume their duties at 0500 hours and are relieved at 2000 hours. They observe the border from a mountain top at a place called Orel, opposite the Greek villages of Debran and Bakichte. Another patrol, consisting of two (2) individuals who likewise observe the border from a hidden observation post, is located on the top of hill "184" above the Despat-Dere River, on the border itself. The observation tower is dug in the ground and has three (3) embrasures through which observation is accomplished. Actually, two (2) of these observation slits are located in Bulgarian territory, and the third one is four (4) meters inside of Greek territory, in order that the post can better observe activity along the Despat-Dere River. This observation post's personnel is relieved during the day at approximately 1300 hours by another pair of observers. The day patrols and observers are armed with rifles, sub-machine guns and hand grenades. No password is used.

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28. The night patrols consist of five (5) ambushes of two (2) soldiers each and one (1) pair of roving patrolmen who patrol the village itself. Each pair is armed with one (1) rifle, (1) sub-machine gun, and two (2) to four (4) hand grenades. The ambushes are located at various spots approximately 100 meters from the border and the ambush pairs are mounted at different times designated by the "zastava" commander. They are likewise relieved at various unset times. Each "zastava" is given an hour at which they will begin mounting their ambushes. The ambushes start being mounted at 2000 hours and are relieved at 0600 hours at the latest. A single general password is given to all ambushes.

29. In the event that information has been received that an illegal group is going to cross near or at a specific point, the patrols are increased from men obtained from either the "uchastuk" or the "zastava" and each patrol numbers between 10 and 14 men, who might well stay at their ambush point up to 48 hours without being relieved. Such large ambushes usually consist of one (1) officer from the "uchastuk" or the "zastava", in addition to the enlisted men.

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30. The border "zastava" "Iskur" is located in the village of Brushten, (QK 9039). The "zastava" is located six (6) kilometers southwest of the village, and two and one-half (2½) kilometers from the border in a field approximately 100 meters west of the Dospat-Dere River. The "zastava" is headquartered in a stone barracks with dimensions 20 meters long, 5 meters wide, and 4 meters high.

31. The "zastava" has 28 soldiers armed with 12 sub-machine guns, 16 rifles, and hand grenades. Besides this the "zastava" has in reserve a Russian sniper's rifle and a machine gun.

32. The command personnel of this "zastava" are as follows:

(Lieut.) KARGHEV. (fau). "zastava" commander.

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Sgt. whose name is unknown,

33. This "zastava" maintains day and night patrols. The day patrols are composed of six soldiers who mount three (3) men each on two observation posts. Each one of these three-man patrols are armed with two (2) rifles, one sub-machine gun, and three (3) hand grenades. They have no password during the day. The first observation post is located on a hill near the 4th Bulgarian Border Post and at a place where the Dospat-Dere River crosses the Bulgarian-Greek border. This observation post is open. The second observation post is a hidden observation post located five (5) kilometers south of the 5th Bulgarian Border Post. This observation post is dug into the ground and is covered with rafters on which has been laid turf, and grass is freshly growing at the present time from it. This observation post has two (2) slots through which the observers look, both of them facing south towards Greece.

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34. The night patrols are composed of six (6) men, divided into three (3) ambush patrols. Their arms are identical with the day patrols, but carry two (2) hand grenades each. Their method of mounting guard is identical with that of the "Krusha Zastava".

35. The border "zastava" "Yabulka" is located in the village of Beslan (OK 8961). [redacted] The "zastava" is located four (4) kilometers south of the village. Its headquarters is in a stone building 32 meters long, 7 meters wide, and 10 meters high.

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36. The "zastava" has approximately 30 soldiers attached to it who are equipped with sub-machine guns, rifles, and hand grenades.

37. The following are some of the personalities in the "zastava":

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Lieut. VASILYEV. (fnu). "zastava" commander, [redacted]

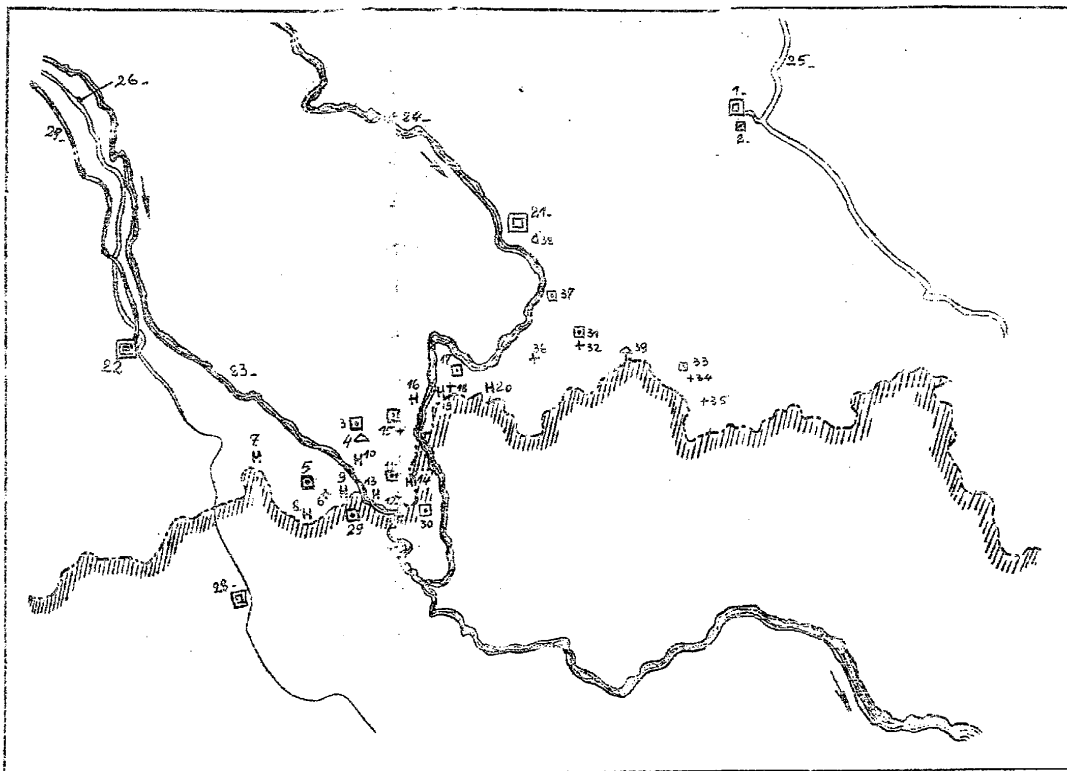
Sgt., name unknown, [redacted]

38. The "zastava" mounts both day and night patrols. The day patrol is composed of six (6) soldiers who man three (3) observation posts with three (3) men each. Their method of operation and their armament are the same as those indicated for "Zastava Krusha". The first observation post is located near the 16th Bulgarian Border Post. The second observation post is located near the Bulgarian Border Post opposite the village of Nakiaste, Greece. Both these observation posts are open.

39. The night patrols of the "zastava" are composed of four (4) ambushes of two (2) soldiers each. These soldiers carry the same armament as the day patrols. Their method of mounting guard and system of passwords are the same as those of "Krusha Zastava". There is one exception in their armament, and that is that all men of this post carry two (2) hand grenades each.

40. Attached hereto are sketches of Strel, Yabulka, and a general sketch of observation posts and installations of the border. There are explanatory sheets for each of the sketches.

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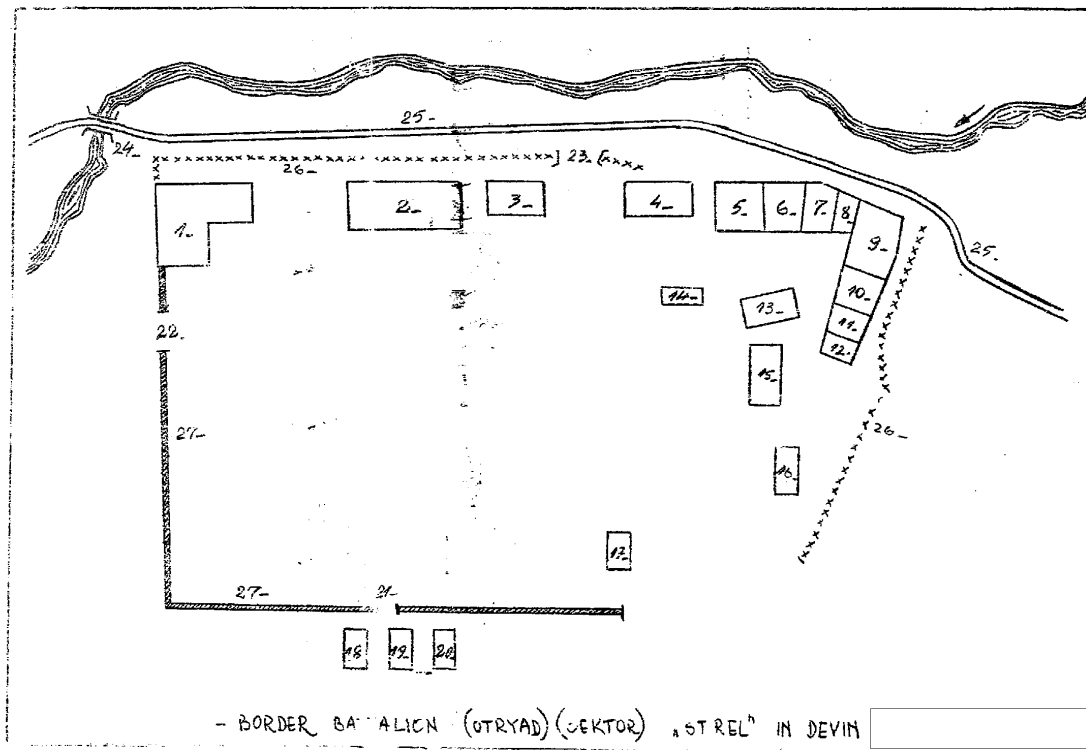
SKETCH OF BORDER AREA NEAR DEVIN

1. City of Devin.
2. Battalion "Strel".
3. Village of Slashten.
4. Slashten Komandatura.
5. Village of Reulen.
6. Yabulka Zastava.
7. Border OP belonging to Gotse Delchev Komandatura.
- 8, 9. Open OPs of Yabulka Zastava.
10. Open OP of Slashten Komandatura.
11. Village of Godeshevo.
12. Krusha Zastava.
- 13, 14. Covered OPs of Krusha Zastava.
15. Melina Zastava.
16. Open OP of Melina Zastava.
17. Village of Brushten.
18. Iskur Zastava.
19. Open OP of Iskur Zastava.
20. Covered OP of Iskur Zastava.
21. Village of Dospat.
22. City of Gotse Delchev.
23. Nosta River.
24. Dospat-Dere River.
25. Krichin-Devin-Smolyan Road.
26. Sofia-Gotse Delchev Road.
27. Sofia-Gotse Delchev R.R. line.
28. Kato Nevrokop, Greece.
29. Rakishte, Greece.
30. Istishte, Greece.
31. Village of Chavdar.
32. Chavdar Zastava.
33. Village of Buinovo.
34. Zastava in the village.
35. Melina Zastava.
36. Yavor Zastava.
37. Village of Earutin.
38. Dospet Komandatura.
39. Open OP of Chavdar Zastava.

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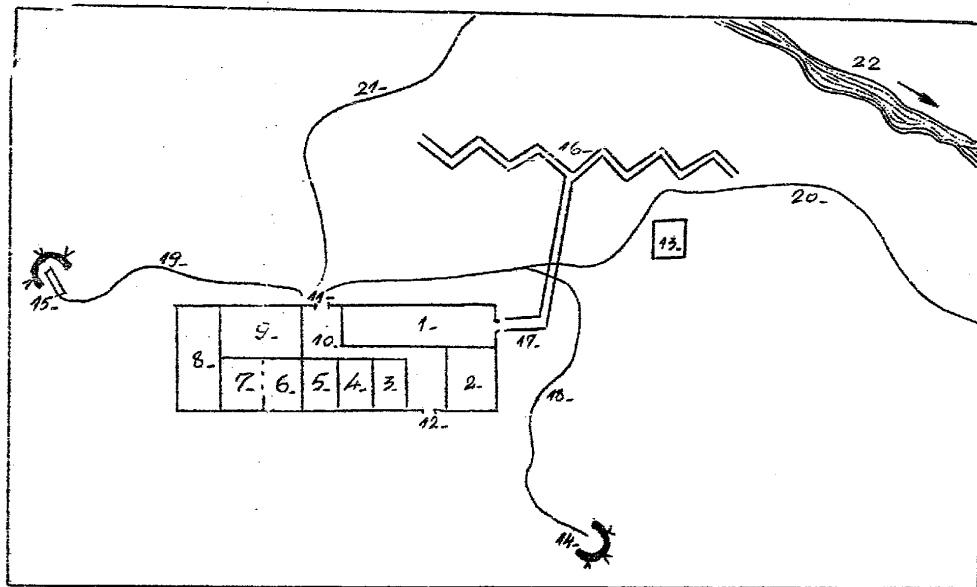


1. Battalion (Otryad) Staff
2. Troop quarters, mess hall & telephone switchboard.
3. Day room & movies room.
4. Carpenter shop and stables.
5. Shoe repair shop.
6. Bakery.
7. Food storeroom.
8. Flour storage.
9. Clothing storeroom.
10. Washroom and kitchen.
11. Storage warehouse.
12. Sleeping quarters for troops of the Housekeeping Company.
13. Iron workshop.
14. Fountain.
15. Garage.
16. Ammery.
17. Guardhouse.
- 18, 19, 20. Officers' quarters.
21. Entrance to officers' quarters.
22. Main entrance.
23. Side entrance of barracks area.
24. Devin River Bridge.
25. Devin-Krichin Road.
26. Barbed wire fence.
27. Cement walls.

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1. Sleeping-quarters for troops.
2. Dimitrov room (library).
3. Sergeants' room.
4. Zastava commander's office.
5. Orderly room.
6. Kitchen.
7. Bakery.
8. Food storage.
9. Mess hall.
10. Corridor.
11. Main entrance.
12. Rear entrance.
13. Stables.
- 14, 15. Blockhouses with 3 fire slots.
16. Infantry trenches.
17. Entrance to trenches.
- 18, 19. Paths to blockhouses.
20. Path to slashen over Hesta river ford.
21. Path to besler.
22. Hesta river.

- BORDER ZASTAVA 'YABULKA' IN BESLER -

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